

Mineral King: Is It for Man or for Squirrels?

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR

SACRAMENTO — (CNS) — Federal approval of a master plan for the development of the Walt Disney development of the Mineral King area as a year-round recreational center for California deserves high commendation, but on the other hand, it is unfortunate that the plan has been scaled down so as to accommodate fewer persons seeking relief from the pressures of modern living.

And it is also unfortunate that

a citizen's taxpayer suit to halt the entire development is being discussed by organizations inimical to the idea of opening up mountain areas on the order of Mineral King for the use of the people of California.

The Sierra Club appears to be one of these organizations. In its publications, it has opposed development of Mineral King, and last summer held a trek into the area to look the situation over, later announcing opposition to the proposed development on

the grounds the scenic beauty of the area would be disturbed.

There is no question that the influx of people into a scenic area is dis-enchanting to those who adhere to the theory that "this is the forest primeval" and never should the advent of man be permitted to run the squirrels out of their nests.

On the other hand, it is a recognized fact that the advent of man has occurred, and will continue with increasing intensity as the years pass by. And with this advent comes the ever in-

creasing demand for relaxation through recreation of various kinds.

Unfortunately again, government has been unable to provide sufficient areas in which such recreation can be found. State parks, although the state owns thousands of acres of such areas, have not been developed to the point where all of the public that wants to use them can be accommodated. Reservations months in advance are needed to get into these areas. Camping facilities are at a premium, and

the state frowns on using available, although undeveloped areas.

Thus, when a private concern wants to develop an area like Mineral King, for the pleasure of the public, as well as a profit project, there seems to be little reason for an organization like the Sierra Club, composed largely of persons well-funded, to seek denial to the public of a development which in the long run would serve the interests of a far larger number of people than the club has members.

In attempts to adhere to the desires of these professional conservationists, the Disney organization cut back its plan for original service to 1.7 million people annually, to 980,000, an action which is indicated to deprive nearly three-quarters of a million people of mountain recreation every year. And in all probability, this deprived portion of the public would be the people who need the recreation most.

No one in good conscience

wants to sponsor the role of the despoiler. But the demands and needs of people have to be a consideration in usage of public lands. Therefore, it appears actions to dislodge them from such use when developments are planned to retain as much natural beauty as possible, would be actions of selfishness on the part of a small minority.

Land usage is inevitable in the mountain areas as long as people increase. And such usage will not be denied to a recreation-hungry public for long.

Your Right to Know

Is the Key to All Your Liberties

Comment and Opinion

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Helping Hands

The human capacity for compassion is being demonstrated again in the community as friends and strangers alike are joining in efforts to aid 18-year-old Pam Fischer, who was severely injured in an auto accident last November.

Merchants throughout the city are displaying Pam's photo and asking for help in meeting the staggering financial burden placed on her parents.

A number of her Torrance High School classmates, now comprising a teenage musical group known widely as the Symbols of Tyme, will present a benefit performance at the Torrance Recreation Center tonight.

The Chapel Theatre group, one of the community's leading theatrical groups, will present a benefit performance on Feb. 6 at their playhouse at 2222 Lomita Blvd. in Lomita.

Community support of these and other affairs probably doesn't need our urging, but we offer it nonetheless.

And we know our support of these activities will be of great help to Pam's parents, Police Lieutenant and Mrs. Mickey Fischer. Any merchant displaying Pam's picture will tell you how you can help.

The Acid Test

The efficiency of the completed portions of the city's major storm drain system was never proved more adequately than during last week's severe rains.

You don't have to be an old-timer to remember when that much rain would have made Torrance a series of small islands cut off from mainland U.S.A.

Not all of the problems have been solved — in fact, a couple of severe ones remain. But the progress made during the past decade proved to be life-saver in scope when given the acid test of a major storm.

Other Opinions

It is plain to see that evil politicians figure that by doling out more and more welfare to millions of recipients that they can control the government forever. What professional welfare recipient would not vote for more? —Russell Springs (Ky.) Times Journal.

SACRAMENTO REPORT

Battle Lines for State Tax Reforms Set Early

By RALPH C. DILLS
Senator, 32nd District

Battle lines for tax reform in several areas are being drawn early in this 1969 legislative session. Included among other proposals are bills to establish a system of withholding for payment of state income taxes, and to offer an accelerated reduction of property tax burdens on business investors.

This will be the third consecutive year that the withholding tax bill has been offered for legislative consideration. If such a measure were adopted the state would collect its income taxes in the same manner as the federal government by withholding a prescribed amount from each paycheck.

The author claims his bill would call for reducing income taxes for what he terms "hard-pressed, middle-income taxpayers" and for the placing aside of \$300 million the first year the withholding program would go into effect — 1970 — for state and local building programs.

Transient wage earners who are long gone at tax time ap-

pear to be a primary target of the withholding provisions. The author estimates that a 100 per cent withholding system would produce up to \$90 million annually in new revenues, although there are some that say this is too high a figure.

My colleague has indicated that the average family with two children, earning \$10,000, would realize a reduction of from \$52 to \$58 in the annual state income tax payment. However, he points out, it would reduce the annual salary which a person could earn without paying state income tax from \$2,000 to \$1,500. He quickly adds it would "excuse" any person from paying the tax if his bill was \$4 or less.

The inventory tax bill would exempt 22 per cent of the value of business inventories from taxation. The present law provides for a 15 per cent exemption on inventories.

Funds to reimburse local governments for the loss in revenues as a result of the increased exemption is provided in the new measure through a continuation of the present corporation pre-payment plan at

existing levels. Corporations now pre-pay 50 per cent of their corporate taxes in June and an additional 25 per cent in November. Under existing law this pre-payment would be automatically reduced to 30 and 20 per cent respectively in 1970.

The author claims that by maintaining the 50-25 plan, "we can arrange state financing so that \$22 million annually will be available for this reimbursement to local government."

Neither of these tax reform plans may be without opposition. The governor in the past has been "unilaterally opposed" to the withholding concept, indicating that he would prefer to see the state return to the former system where citizens could pay their taxes in quarterly installments.

The continuation of the 50-25 plan as outlined in the second measure may run into some opposition from those who have looked forward to the smaller bite in 1970.

One thing is certain, Californians are eager for some form of tax relief.

did was burn the governor's carriages and turn his horses loose.

Up and down the seaboard from Boston to Charleston the King's revenue commissioners were manhandled by colonists formed in small raiding parties, and very few stamps were sold. The next year the London Parliament repealed the Stamp Act, and things quieted for a year or two.

George III's government continued stupid, however, and set up navigation and trade restrictions which rang the bell in the 1770s and ultimately triggered Lexington and Concord. The end of this was Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown, when the band played a tune called "The World Turned Upside Down."

Most of the London stupidities (such as quartering soldiers on the people, then fleeing the people for their upkeep) were mentioned in the Declaration of Independence, and some were embedded in the Bill of Rights years after the Revolution was won.

In any case, 1763-1775 saw al-

most continuous disorder in the Colonies, and it was marked by a phenomenon: the royal authority on the spot often refused to meet with delegations of the aggrieved to discuss their demands. You perceive lack of communication is hardly novel.

The dispute was over both principle and money, but the oppressions were not grave, except in rare instances when dissenters were transported to London for trial sure to be rigged against them.

Today we are all disturbed over the forms of youthful dissent, particularly on college campuses. To many they seem like an absolute evil, though occasionally a voice is raised to question this judgment.

Many of us who have talked with students involved in the present controversy incline to agree with Dr. Morison, but he could have gone a step farther: if some history teachers are mediocre and boring it is because, when young, they learned under mediocre and boring history teachers, unable to bring alive for them the true meaning of the forces and men shaping our history. Thus one root of our trouble, insofar as concerns education, is in our past.

Morning Report

It's not one of the rights guaranteed in the Constitution but it is held dearly nonetheless: we will do anything we can get away with.

I think, more than anything else, this could account for the burnings, bombings, shootings, sit-ins, riots, and other lesser disturbances that have interrupted campuses across the country. This is not to say that students don't have grievances. They have plenty of them—as does everybody else. I even have a few of my own. In fact, I know a sit-in I could pull off today. But the consequences would be catastrophic — to me. So I won't.

The students are not stupid. As long as they can do what they want to do, they will. When they cannot, they'll stop. Simplistic but true.

Abe Mellinkoff

I Agreed to Let You Stay On Here—



ROYCE BRIER

A Thumbnail History of Disorder--1766 to 1969

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Sly Driver Finds Way To Trim Parking Costs

Restaurateur Angelo Camozzi has discovered that it's cheaper to park on a sidewalk (\$2 ticket) than double-park (\$5), so when he's really stuck — Yup . . . I see a brave and clean new world here, with all the cars parked on the sidewalk, thereby freeing the curbs for the dogs who go everywhere but (lawncorder, lawnorder!). By the way, the Board of Supes voted down an appropriation for more "Curb Your Dog" signs, on the theory that neither the dogs nor their masters can read anyway.

Saucy Graffiti at S.F. State: "Hayakawa is an Uncle Tam" . . . And George Kosmak sums up The Good Doctor's stance as a "counter-disestablishmentarianism" . . . Assemblyman John Burton, searching for the silver lining in Gov. Reagan's ice-cold attitude toward State: "Well, at least he stopped short of tactical nuclear weapons" . . . There'll always be a side effect — and Dr. Arthur Anderson Jr. notes that medical practice continues to expand, thanks to sports. To tennis elbow, baseball finger and swimmer's ear has now been added joggers' heel.

That gaping hole where once stood the old Hall of Justice is making life miserable for Cookie Nicholas, hostess at the Blue Fox, right across the alley. She has been asked "What's going in there?" so often that she now presents a card that reads simply, "We're expanding! . . . Pianist Robert Casadesus must be a slow memorizer. He had to use the MUSIC here while playing D'Indy's cornball "Symphony for Quelque-Chose." In his S.F. debut 30 years ago. He has played it about 60 times since then, but one question re-

mains: why? Nevertheless, the orch is sounding mellow . . . Artist Jerry Stinski, whose jewel-like paintings are shown, appropriately, at Shreve's, has two loyal fans: Henry Fonda and Red Skelton. Fonda buys everything of Stinski's that has

Report from Our Man in San Francisco

a lime in it, while Skelton buys every tomato. Red: "I dig tomatoes in any form. It's a wierd hang-up, isn't it?" . . . Wilbur Stump the eminent saloon pianist, just got married for the seventh time, the lucky number being Ruth Ferguson, office manager of the Richmond plumbers union. "I feel terrible about it," says Wilbur. "She's so classy and I'm such a bum" . . . This is the year, vows Kirk Douglas, that he'll finally get around to filming "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," which he bought from Ken Kesey pre-publication years ago.

Rod McKuen, a lot of people's favorite poet, returns to Basin Street West Jan. 31 (till Feb. 8) and I'll be there because I still can't figure out how he does it. I mean getting all that rapt attention in a North Beach saloon without even taking his sweater off . . . Shocking graffiti noted at Boalt Hall by Bill Sommer: "Lassie Kills Chickens" . . . Tim Boyle is ready to give up: "Here my wife has been watching football with me all season long and she still thinks a 'Red Dog' is an Irish setter" . . . Which brings us, and high time, to the incomparable George Lemont: "Well, as one little moon man said to the other: 'Stupid! If you hadn't insisted on hiding in a crater every time they passed over we could have been on national television.'"

Prominently displayed in Ben Swig's penthouse at the Fairmont: a Viet Cong rifle, presented to him by a General back from Vietnam. From now on no self-respecting VC would be caught dead at the Fairmont . . . Perils of educational TV: Bill German, who runs "Profile: Bay Area" on KQED, says "Audio Trouble" has been flashed below his face so many times, people think that's his name.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Vincent Sheean's Moving Autobiography Due Again

Preview: When we were all much younger the name Vincent Sheean stirred a glamorous aura, the figure of a trench-coated young American covering the Fascist march on Rome, the early ferment of the Stalin era in Soviet Russia, the Spanish and French wars on the Rif tribesmen of North Africa, such years of crisis as 1927 in China or 1929 in Palestine. Vincent Sheean's "Personal History" appeared in 1935. It was semi-autobiographical political journalism, the first of a wave of autobiographies by foreign correspondents, and to me always the best.

Sheean left the University of Chicago (without a degree) in 1918, became Paris correspondent for the Chicago Tribune, then a free-lance reporter traveling the world to cover uprisings and other portentous events the tragedy and splendor of those times. Sheean wrote other books over the years, novels and a particularly moving biography of Gandhi (1955).

But it was "Personal History," an evolution in experience, he once called it, an account of the author's intellectual awakening, upon which his reputation is based. It is a book that helped stir a political-cultural awakening in my

generation of young Americans.

"Personal History" might seem a little antic to today's young generation of readers, a suggestion of historical events which were overshadowed by more astounding events of following decades. In any event, Houghton Mifflin will introduce a 1969 edition of "Personal History" in March, untouched except for a new introduction by the author (it seems impossible to believe he is pushing 70). I look forward to re-reading this landmark autobiography of youth, revolution and one man's relation to history. Could it have been that good? (Both hardcover and softcover, editions.)

Browsing Through the World of Books

Also due from Houghton Mifflin in March (both hardcover and softcover editions) is an extraordinary book which was first published in 1912. "The Promised Land," by Mary Antin (1881-1949). Written in Yiddish when she was still a child, this was an account of her early life in the still medieval world of Poletzi, Russian Poland, where she lived through the dreadful pogroms of the time. Her family managed to

reach America, where they settled in the Boston slums. In 1899 Mary Antin translated her story into English, adding her later experiences in "The Promised Land." It appeared in serial form in The Atlantic Monthly, later sold untold thousands of copies in 34 printings.

This remains a bright, independent, intriguing and perceptive mind at work as the young lady described the customs of the old country (marriage customs, for example) and recalled a child's awe and bewilderment in the terror of Poletzi, her hopes for the new country, and her central point that immigrants throughout the centuries have furnished the sinew of a new land.

"The Promised Land" has been out of print for some time. It is a memorable account of the immigrant experience, which so many of us in these affluent times tend to forget.

Press-Herald

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